

Appl. No.: 10/823,217
Reply to Final Office Action of: September 13, 2005

Remarks

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-16 and 19-23 stand rejected and claims 17 and 18 are objected to. The applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 17 and 18. The rejection of claims 1-16 and 19-23 is addressed as follows:

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by May, et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,558,176). Claims 17 and 18 have been rewritten to be in independent form, claims 2-13 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 17 and claims 1, 14-16 have been cancelled. Claims 2-13, 17 and 18 are therefore in condition for allowance and the rejection thereof is moot. Claim 19 has been amended to include a limitation modeled after that of original claim 18 which the Examiner indicated to be allowable. Amended claim 19 is allowable because the references of record do not teach nor suggest the actuation lever having at least one tooth located at its free end constructed to mesh with at least one correspondingly positioned mating tooth on the mating connector to bring about a relative movement between the first connector and the mating connector. Claims 19-23 are therefore also in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested.

New claims 24-35 are presented for examination. These claims are modeled after claims 2-13 and depend from allowable claim 18. They are therefore also allowable.

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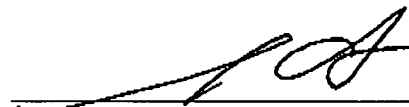
Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner wishes to discuss anything presented here in order to advance the prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant.

Please charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayments associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,



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